

Appl. No.: 10/709,256
Amdt. Dated: 1/18/2006
Reply to Office action of: 11/08/2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

There are no drawing amendments presented herewith.

Appl. No.: 10/709,256
Amdt. Dated: 1/18/2006
Reply to Office action of: 11/08/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 10 remains in this application. Amended Claim 10 incorporates the subject matter of now canceled Claims 11 – 12, support for which may be found, for example, in the previously presented Claims 10 – 12. Claims 11 – 12 have been canceled.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

The key to Applicants' invention resides in the ability to mount fixedly a bolt to the surface of a power distribution box independent of other power distribution box components in an easy and efficient manner. Additionally, the use of dentations on the legs of the U-shaped metallic part allows for locking of the bolt head to a surface of a power distribution box quickly and easily without the need of separate alignment tabs and locking tabs. Clearly when viewed in this light Applicant's claimed invention is not disclosed, taught, or fairly suggested by the cited reference.

Claim 10 was objected to because of the informality of a typographical error in using the word "an" instead of the proper word "a". By this amendment this typographical error has been corrected and this objection is now overcome.

Claims 1 – 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states:

Each of claims 11 and 12 depend from claims which have been canceled. The claims were examined as best understood.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. By this amendment Claims 11 – 12 have been canceled and replaced with new Claim 10 combining old Claims 10 – 12 and which properly claim Applicant's invention. Thus, the rejection based on these claims being based on canceled claims is now moot.

When viewed in light of the amendments to the claims presented here with it is clear that the claimed invention is now ready for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 – 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yang (US 5,795,193). Specifically, the Examiner states:

Claims 10 – 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yang (5,795,193). Yang discloses a

Appl. No.: 10/709,256

Amdt. Dated: 1/18/2006

Reply to Office action of: 11/08/2005

device for attaching a bolt to a power distribution box comprising a screw (18), power distribution box (10) intended for use in an automobile and a metallic part (50). The metallic part is U-shaped (see Fig. 3) and includes a pair of legs (58) joined by a cross member (60) having a hole (62) which receives the threaded portion of a bolt (72, see Fig. 4) and each of the legs engage a flat face of the bolt head (74, see Fig. 4). The length of the legs being greater than the thickness of the head and the legs have a plurality of detentions (70) to engage the box.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In light of Applicants amending claim 10 and canceling claims 11 – 12 Applicant's remarks respond to the rejection as directed toward the remaining amended claim 10. A fair reading of the Yang reference discloses a three part power distribution box (10) comprising an upper housing (12), a lower housing (14) and a bus bar (16) (see, for example, Col. 3, lines 7 – 10 and Fig. 1) for use in an automobile that fixedly attaches said bus bar (16) to said upper housing (12) via a bolt (18) through the body of the power distribution box and requiring a fitting on an electrical bus bar (16) to attach fixedly said bolt (18) (see, for example, Fig. 1). Additionally, the legs (58) of the generally U-shaped electrical bus bar do not engage the power distribution box by means of dentations (70) but instead require separate latch tabs 68 on each leg to engage said power distribution box (10) upper housing (12) to fixedly attach said bus bar (16) (see, for example, Col. 3, line 57 to Col. 4, line 5, and Figs 2 – 3). The dentations (70) are disclosed as being optional alignment tabs which assist in aligning the top edges of apertures (66) when bracket (50) is positioned in opening (40) (see, for example, Col. 4, lines 39 – 48).

Applicants' claimed invention on the other hand eliminates the need for both a set of wing-like structures (68) being formed on the U-shaped bus bar legs (58), does not require the bolt (18) be mounted through the body of the power distribution box (10), and does not require a separate electrical component upper housing (12) of the power distribution box (10) assembly to mount the bolt (18) to the power distribution box (10) and does not require the option of having aligning tabs (70) to allow the proper locking of locking arms (44) in apertures (66) (see for example, Col. 4, lines 39 – 48 and Fig. 5).

Clearly the Examiner apparently has misread the teaching of the Yang (US 5,795,193) reference by asserting that tabs (70) of this reference are the locking means

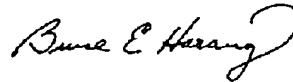
Appl. No.: 10/709,256
Amdt. Dated: 1/18/2006
Reply to Office action of: 11/08/2005

for the bus bar (16) to the power distribution box (10) when in fact the locking means is solely provided by wing-like structures (68), locking arms (44), and apertures (66). Furthermore, the Examiner's argument that tabs (70) have detentions for locking is clearly incorrect in light of the references Fig. 2 and Col. 4, lines 39 – 48 teaching that tabs (70) are not even required and the current amendments to Applicant's claims.

Clearly the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the method of mounting a bolt head to the surface of a power distribution box, or the use of dentations on the edges of a metallic mounting part to attach fixedly said bolt head. When viewed in this light it is clear that the claimed invention is now ready for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

In view of the remarks herein, and the amendments hereto, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action and issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce E. Harang
Registration No. 29,720
Tel.: (360) 903-4693